

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing baled crop material comprising:
- a. a chassis having a front and back end and a left and right side;
 - b. a bale receptacle mounted on the chassis;
 - c. a disintegrator mounted in the bale receptacle adapted to disintegrate baled crop material and to discharge processed material out of the bale receptacle;
 - d. a fork lift mounted toward the back end of the chassis having a fork lift frame pivotally connected to the chassis and two forks on said fork lift frame extending rearward of the chassis with each fork having a free end distal from said chassis;
 - e. a hydraulic cylinder connected between the fork lift frame and the chassis adapted to pivot the fork lift frame between a first position in which said forks are maintained in close proximity to the ground facilitating sliding of the forks under a stationary bale and a second position in which said forks extend above the top of said receptacle;
 - f. a bale carrier between the respective forks having a lower profile than said forks when said fork lift frame is in said first position facilitating sliding of the carrier under a square bale on a planar surface, said bale carrier comprising separate bale carrier elements attached toward said free end of the respective forks, said bale carrier elements each having a front section attached toward the free end of its respective fork and tapering inwardly toward the opposing fork, said bale carrier being adapted to engage and support a bale as it is lifted by said fork lift; and
 - g. wherein said fork lift is adapted to retain said bales on said forks as the fork lift frame is pivoted between said first and second position and to release said bale into said receptacle when said fork lift frame approaches said second position thereby flipping said bale into said bale receptacle.

5. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said bale carrier elements are attached to a bottom surface of the respective forks.

6. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein said bale carrier elements each comprise rods having a first section attached toward said free end of a respective fork and tapering inwardly toward the opposing fork, a second section extending forwardly between the forks, and a third section tapering outwardly and having an end attached to its respective fork at a position forward from the attachment of said first section.

7. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the forks are configured so as to accommodate different sizes of bales including large square bales, one or more large round bales or one or more small bales.

8. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said fork lift and said receptacle are each adapted to longitudinally accommodate one large square bale or one or more round bales.

9. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the distance between the respective forks may be varied so as to accommodate different sizes of bales.

10. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the length of each fork may be adjusted to accommodate different sizes of bales.

11. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein the distance between the respective forks and the length of each fork may be adjusted to accommodate different sizes of bales.

12. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 4 further including a bale spear mounted on the fork lift frame positioned so as to engage a bale held on said forks proximate to said fork lift frame said bale spear being adapted to maintain said bale in position as it is flipped into said receptacle or held on said forks.

13. (New) An apparatus for processing baled crop material comprising:
- a. a chassis having a front and back end and a left and right side;
 - b. a bale receptacle mounted on the chassis;
 - c. a disintegrator mounted in the bale receptacle adapted to disintegrate baled crop material and to discharge processed material out of the bale receptacle;
 - d. a fork lift mounted toward the back end of the chassis having a fork lift frame pivotally connected to the chassis and two forks on said fork lift frame extending rearward of the chassis with each fork having a free end distal from said chassis;
 - e. a hydraulic cylinder connected between the fork lift frame and the chassis adapted to pivot the fork lift frame between a first position in which said forks are maintained in close proximity to the ground facilitating sliding of the forks under a stationary bale and a second position in which said forks extend above the top of said receptacle;
 - f. a bale carrier between the respective forks having a lower profile than said forks when said fork lift frame is in said first position facilitating sliding of the carrier under a square bale on a planar surface, said bale carrier comprising separate bale carrier elements attached toward said free end of the respective forks, said bale carrier elements each having a front section attached toward the free end of its respective fork and tapering inwardly toward the opposing fork, said bale carrier being adapted to engage and support a bale as it is lifted by said fork lift;
 - g. wherein said fork lift is adapted to retain said bales on said forks as the fork lift frame is pivoted between said first and second position and to release said bale into said receptacle when said fork lift frame approaches said second position thereby flipping said bale into said bale receptacle; and
 - h. wherein said bale carrier elements each have a first section attached toward said free end of a respective fork and tapering inwardly toward the opposing fork, a second section extending forwardly between the forks, and a third section tapering outwardly and having an end attached to its respective fork at a position forward from the attachment of said first section.

14. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein said bale carrier elements are attached to a bottom surface of the respective forks.

15. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein the forks are configured so as to accommodate different sizes of bales including large square bales, one or more large round bales or one or more small bales.

16. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein said fork lift and said receptacle are each adapted to longitudinally accommodate one large square bale or one or more round bales.

17. (New) An apparatus for processing baled crop material comprising:
- a. a chassis having a front and back end and a left and right side;
 - b. a bale receptacle mounted on the chassis;
 - c. a disintegrator mounted in the bale receptacle adapted to disintegrate baled crop material and to discharge processed material out of the bale receptacle;
 - d. a fork lift mounted toward the back end of the chassis having a fork lift frame pivotally connected to the chassis and two forks on said fork lift frame extending rearward of the chassis with each fork having a free end distal from said chassis;
 - e. a hydraulic cylinder connected between the fork lift frame and the chassis adapted to pivot the fork lift frame between a first position in which said forks are maintained in close proximity to the ground facilitating sliding of the forks under a stationary bale and a second position in which said forks extend above the top of said receptacle;
 - f. a bale carrier between the respective forks having a lower profile than said forks when said fork lift frame is in said first position facilitating sliding of the carrier under a square bale on a planar surface, said bale carrier comprising separate bale carrier elements attached toward said free end of the respective forks, said bale carrier elements each having a front section attached toward the free end of its respective fork and tapering inwardly toward the opposing fork, said bale carrier being adapted to engage and support a bale as it is lifted by said fork lift;
 - g. wherein said fork lift is adapted to retain said bales on said forks as the fork lift frame is pivoted between said first and second position and to release said bale into said receptacle when said fork lift frame approaches said second position thereby flipping said bale into said bale receptacle; and
 - h. wherein said bale carrier elements each comprise rods having a first section attached toward said free end of a respective fork and tapering inwardly toward the opposing fork, a second section extending forwardly between the forks, and a third section tapering outwardly and having an end attached to its respective fork at a position forward from the attachment of said first section.

18. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the forks are configured so as to accommodate different sizes of bales including large square bales, one or more large round bales or one or more small bales.

19. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein said fork lift and said receptacle are each adapted to longitudinally accommodate one large square bale or one or more round bales.

20. (New) An apparatus for processing baled crop material comprising:
- a. a chassis having a front and back end and a left and right side;
 - b. a bale receptacle mounted on the chassis;
 - c. a disintegrator mounted in the bale receptacle adapted to disintegrate baled crop material and to discharge processed material out of the bale receptacle;
 - d. a fork lift mounted toward the back end of the chassis having a fork lift frame pivotally connected to the chassis and two forks on said fork lift frame extending rearward of the chassis with each fork having a free end distal from said chassis and wherein the distance between the respective forks and the length of each fork may be adjusted to accommodate different sizes of bales;
 - e. a hydraulic cylinder connected between the fork lift frame and the chassis adapted to pivot the fork lift frame between a first position in which said forks are maintained in close proximity to the ground facilitating sliding of the forks under a stationary bale and a second position in which said forks extend above the top of said receptacle;
 - f. a bale carrier between the respective forks having a lower profile than said forks when said fork lift frame is in said first position facilitating sliding of the carrier under a square bale on a planar surface, said bale carrier comprising separate bale carrier elements attached toward said free end of the respective forks, said bale carrier elements each having a front section attached toward the free end of its respective fork and tapering inwardly toward the opposing fork, said bale carrier being adapted to engage and support a bale as it is lifted by said fork lift;
 - g. wherein said fork lift is adapted to retain said bales on said forks as the fork lift frame is pivoted between said first and second position and to release said bale into said receptacle when said fork lift frame approaches said second position thereby flipping said bale into said bale receptacle; and
 - h. wherein said bale carrier elements are attached to a bottom surface of the respective forks, each of said bale carrier elements having a first section attached toward said free end of a respective fork and tapering inwardly toward the opposing fork, a second section extending forwardly between the forks, and a third section tapering outwardly and having an end attached to its respective fork at a position forward from the attachment of said first section.